

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON , on MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2015.

Present – Councillors John McGinty, Anne McMillan and Cathy Muldoon

Apologies – Councillors Peter Johnston

Absent – Councillor Frank Anderson

MINUTES -

1.

- a) The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 22 June 2015. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.
- b) The Board noted the Minute of the Community Planning Steering Group meeting held on 20 April 2015.

2. COMMUNITY SAFETY QUARTERLY STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing information from Covalent (the council's performance monitoring system) showing Community Safety Performance indicators for the year to date.

Yvonne Beresford, Policy and Performance Officer, WLC then provided an overview of some of the main performance measures contained within the report, highlighting some of the issues surrounding Youth Calls, Vandalism, Hate Crimes, Deliberate Fires, and Alcohol related Violent Offences.

The Chair then invited Superintendent Angus McInnes to provide further commentary on those performance measures pertaining to Police Scotland and the Superintendent explained that figures related to Stop & Search were not yet available whilst Police Scotland were reviewing the method in which the data was collated and reported.

The Superintendent continued to provide further information with regards to Youth Calls, Hate Crimes and Serious Assaults.

The Chair then invited Eddie Ritchie, Scottish Fire Service, to comment on those performance measures pertaining to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In relation to the commentary provided by Police Scotland the Chair sought clarification with regards to the future reporting of Stop and Search data. The Superintendent advised the Board that the data would be back-dated to the start of the year and that comparable data would be provided.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

3. NATIONAL SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME STRATEGY

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the “Letting our Communities Flourish” Serious Organised Crime Strategy for Scotland 2009.

On 24 June 2015 the Scottish Government had published its updated Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. By building on the previous strategy the new one aimed to utilise the improvements in partnership working, information-sharing and financial investigation to tackle the issue. The Scottish Government’s aim was to encourage everyone to play a part in helping to reduce the harm that Serious Organised Crime caused.

The vision remained unchanged with Scotland focusing on four main objectives :-

DIVERT – To divert people from becoming involved in Serious Organised Crime and using its products.

DETER – To deter Serious Organised Crime Group by supporting private, public and third sector organisations to protect themselves and each other.

DETECT – To identify, detect and prosecute those involved in Serious Organised Crime.

DISTRUPT – To disrupt Serious Organised Crime Groups

By working in partnership and with a variety of organisations such as KPMG, Trading Standards Scotland, HMP Addiewell, Business Gateway, Sacro and the Church of Scotland the Scottish Government aimed to reduce the harm caused by Serious Organised Crime and make Scotland a safer, fairer and more prosperous country.

From a West Lothian perspective the local Serious and Organised Crime Group had met to discuss the implications of the New Strategy. At that time a Sub Group was identified who would continue discussions on how local partners would progress the strategy document into a local action plan. The plan would need to be tailored to the specific needs of the local area and local communities across West Lothian and once the actions had been identified local performance indicators would be set up to monitor progress being made.

By working collaboratively together, partners would utilise a variety of media and education resources in order to increase awareness and understanding of the affects serious and organised crime had on communities. And by being aware, supported and encouraged to report

suspicious activity and to make ethically correct choices it was hoped that more people would help West Lothian communities to be less affected by these types of crime.

It was recommended that the Community Safety Board approve the proposal for the new West Lothian Serious and Organised Crime Action Plan which would be presented to a future meeting of the board.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

4. WESTDRIVE 2015

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the Westdrive 2015 event and its continued contribution to reducing casualty rates from road traffic accidents.

Approximately 1382 senior pupils in West Lothian attended Westdrive 2015 between 25 and 27 August 2015 at Howden Park Centre. The event which had partly been funded by Road Safety Scotland and organised by Police Scotland through the West Lothian Community Safety Unit, aimed to promote driving issues in a positive, engaging and enjoyable way whilst conveying very serious messages.

The central theme of the event was that road crashes can and do destroy many lives, particularly young drivers and the lives of their families. Westdrive allowed several agencies who dealt with the aftermath of road accidents to directly engage with young drivers at a stage in their life when statistics demonstrated they were the most likely to be involved in such accidents.

The programme included presentations by emergency services, demonstrations and a range of interactive activities. A DVD was shown and two guest speakers also attended the event, one of whom was the parent of a young driver who had lost their life in a road traffic accident in West Lothian in 2013; this testimony had had a particular impact on the young audience.

Evaluation forms were still being collated however the overwhelming majority of those attending had assessed the event as good to excellent.

It was also noted that a number of partner agencies, including the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Child Brain Injury Trust had withdrawn over the last two years due to operational pressures and therefore it was important to recruit or gain involvement of other relevant partners to participate in future Westdrive events.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To welcome the success of the Westdrive event; and

3. Requested that the Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services give consideration on how best to encourage all partners, particularly the Scottish Ambulance Service, to participate in future Westdrive events.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC STEERING GROUP FUNDING UPDATE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update with regards to development of the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group Funding.

The board were advised that for the period covering Quarter 1 for 2015-16 (April to June 2015) one urgent application for funding was received from the Community Strategic Steering Group Fund.

The urgent request had come from Police Scotland and the total requested was £2,000. This was in response to an action raised at the monthly Partnership Tactical and Co-ordinating meeting where it had been noted that the number and severity of crimes committed at Inveralmond Community High School had more than trebled compared to the previous year.

Therefore it had been agreed that a project would be delivered involving pupils to promote reporting crimes anonymously through the new Crime Stoppers Fearless campaign, which had been specifically set-up with young people in mind. It was hoped that the use of the "Fearless" route would improve knowledge of all crimes including hate crimes and the bullying of vulnerable individuals and other children.

There had also been a request for funding from monies that had been set aside by the Partnership for use of The Risk Factory in Edinburgh. This request had come from the Community Inclusion Team who provided day services and promoted independence in adults with learning difficulties and a programme of three visits was being developed around the issue of "safety".

A summary of the expenditure to date from the Community Safety Fund was summarised in the report noting that £13,281 remained in the fund and £4,650 remained in the Risk Factory Fund.

The report concluded that the update report provided an example of how the Community Safety Partnership worked together in delivering preventative measures to prevent crime and reduce risks and to stop incidents from occurring.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES - UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF

ACTION PLANS

The Board considered a report (copies of which had circulated) providing an update on the progress made with regards to the development of action plans relevant to the West Lothian Community Safety priorities for 2015-18.

The report recalled that at the Community Safety Board meeting on 23 March 2015, the West Lothian Community Safety priorities were agreed for 2015-18. Since that meeting and in accordance with the proposed development of action plans Lead Officers for each of the priorities had been identified.

Whilst it had been anticipated that the action plans and associated performance indicators would be completed in time for the September meeting progress had been much slower than expected. However the council's Quality and Performance Team had now provided assistance and the priorities and action plans had now been incorporated into a wider West Lothian Community Safety Strategy for 2015-18 which had been created utilising a corporate style.

Therefore the completed draft strategy incorporating the action plans and performance indicators would be available for consideration by the members of the Board at its next meeting due to take place on 7 December 2015.

It was recommended that the Board approve the revised time scales for the development and presentation of the action plans and performance indicators relative to the Community Safety Priorities 2015-18.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

7. PREPARING THE COMMUNITIES OF WEST LOTHIAN FOR BONFIRE/FIREWORK PERIOD 2015

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an overview of the preventative work streams across the Community Safety Partnership in relation to the forthcoming Bonfire/Fireworks period.

The aim of the preventative works was to minimise operational demand to all partner agencies, reduce deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour and to also advise the communities of West Lothian on how best to enjoy bonfire night safely.

The success of the prevention work would be measured against the following Outcome Based Objectives :-

- Reduce the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires during this time of year

- Reduce acts of fire related anti-social behaviour
- Reduce accidents and injuries arising from fire and fireworks
- Promote an awareness and assist to enforce firework legislation
- Raise an awareness of the impact bonfires and deliberate fire setting had on an environment
- Reduce the recorded acts of violence on emergency workers

The Partnership Analyst played a key role in the identification of hotspot areas from historical and real time data. The information would then be shared with all community safety partners to ensure that frontline staff were aware of high risk areas and that the appropriate resources could deliver preventative activities.

The report then provided a summary of the preventative activity that would be undertaken by the partner agencies and included the removal of unlicensed bonfires by the council's Nets & Land Services staff, local media releases using twitter and facebook and engagement with firework retailers with Trading Standards carrying out inspections of larger retailers.

In conclusion it was recognised as best practice that partnership working and early intervention was effective in reducing unlicensed bonfires and resultant injuries which would continue to enhance community safety.

Decision

To note the contents of the report